loss of Rs. 48.3 crores per annum, causing burden to the consumers: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) No such communication seems to have been received by this Ministry from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, it may be clarified that the price of gas produced from Rawa Satellite Fields is governed by the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) between the Government of India and the Rawa JV, which is operating the field. In terms of the PSC, GAIL is purchasing gas from these fields at a ceiling price of $3.30/MMBTU. GAIL in turn is supplying this gas to those consumers who have agreed to pay that price, exclusive of marketing margin, Transportation tariff and taxes. The pricing of this gas is governed according to the provisions of the PSC.

Losses due to fire

3288. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire incidents took place in ONGC project in Bombay High in the last three years and the approximate amount of loss due to such fire accidents.

(b) what precautionary measures are taken by ONGC for preventing such fire accidents in the future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Oil and Nagural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has informed that there was one fire incident in Mumbai High at BHN platform during the last 3 years. The loss estimated by the surveyours/average adjusters in the accident is about US$375.10 Million.

(b) and (c) ONGC has taken the following precautionary measure to prevent fire accidents:—

(i) Review and Upgradation of Marine Operating Procedures.

(ii) The review of engineering design through an internationally reputed consultant M/s. Mustang. Based on the report, an action plan has been drawn to provide further safeguard the Offshore structures.

LPG pilferage

3289. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that subsidy on 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders is mostly unreachable to the domestic customers due to severe pilferage of gas before delivery by distribution agencies and their workers in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and. the concrete steps proposed to be taken including introduction of tamper-proof seal instead of present aluminium/plastic seals which are easily tampered by distribution workers;

(c) whether oil companies turn a blind eye to this menance and also whether there are connivance of employees of oil companies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) While no case of any large scale pilferage of LPG from cylinders has come to the notice of the Government, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there have been some instances of pilferage from filled cylinders, which have been detected at their distributors' premises.

(b) to (d) During the year 2005-06, OMCs have reported 17 established cases of pilferage of LPG and action of penalty/termination against the LPG distributors has been taken in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) or the Distributorship Agreement (DA). As and when complaints of pilferage of LPG are received by the OMCs, they are investigated by them and in all established cases, action is taken against the LPG distributors under the provisions of MDG, 2001 and/or DA. The MDG provide for a fine for the first two established cases of pilferage and for termination of the distributorship for the third established case against any distributor.